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Title:

Officially commissioning Cable Makers' new plant

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Dr. Stewart, Mr. Hincksman, Your Worship the Mayor of Elizabeth, My fellow Parliamentarian from N.S.W., Mr. French M.L.C., Mr. Ramsay, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It's a welcome change for a politician to look at something which doesn't change irrespective of whether you take the broad view or the narrow view. But there are many more reasons other than the unusual construction of this plant which make it a significant addition to South Australia's manufacturing capacity.

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Cablemakers involvement in South Australia has grown steadily since the company first started operations at Elizabeth in 1970. The foam conversion plant that it established then was designed mainly to service the automotive industry, but the range of applications for plastics has increased enormously and the number of firms in South Australia using these materials has also grown.

The resulting increase in demand made it possible to build this foam conversion plant, the most sophisticated of its type in Australia, instead of transporting raw slab

foam from N.S.W.

Cablemakers will now be able to supply a great deal more material not only within South Australia, but to Western Australia as well.

The growth in markets for polyurethane reflects the trend towards a plastic society. The interiors of cars we drive are upholstered mainly in foam products, our furniture is sprung with the material and throughout most modern homes there are innumerable items which use various foams.

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It is essential that South Australia have the capacity to supply our industries with this product, and the commissioning of this conversion tunnel today will greatly boost our manufacturing skills and technical expertise in this industry.

It will give Cablemakers greater flexibility and allow the company to diversify, and this will in turn allow other companys to diversify their operations.

South Australian industrial development needs to be imaginative, but it cannot be economically impractical. The whole thrust of the Government's policies is to bring

industries to South Australia which are viable and which will not only provide additional jobs, but ensure that the people who take those jobs have security of employment.

It is no use taking the attitude that we will try to get every industry here, regardless of the economics of the operation, by subsidising them up to the hilt. That is not the basis for long term industrial growth, and most companies would realise it is not the basis for any company to operate.

The Government provides very generous assistance to companies which are interested

in coming here to start operations, and this factory is an example of the practical assistance we offer. The new foaming tunnel was built for Cablemakers by the South Australian Housing Trust as part of the Government policy of providing industrial land and buildings on long term lease back facilities. The foaming tunnel is the latest product of very close co-operation between the Trust and Cablemakers, which started in 1970 when the Trust built the original factory.

Of the \$600,000 total cost for plant and equipment, the Housing Trust effort is worth more than \$200,000 and, as I'm sure you would all agree after your inspection, the Trust has done a first class job.

The Government provides this particular service to industry as part of a much larger package of incentives, which include loan guarantees, low or deferred interest loans, expert advice and resources in a wide range of fields and, in general, an imaginative and flexible approach to providing financial and physical measures to assist new industry.

We have been successful in bringing many industries to our State, even over the last few years when industrial development in the rest of Australia has been almost static. Companies want to relocate here because we have a city in which it is possible to move about freely and quickly and because we have a stable record of industrial harmony and close co-operation between the State Government and industry.

This advanced foaming hall has been facilitated by one example of co-operation between government and industry, and there are many other firms who have used our resources.

We want that to happen, because we want firms to expand, to diversify, to provide more employment and to add to the development of South Australia.

South Australia has a tradition of close links throughout different sections of the community, and more importantly we have a tradition of those sections being able to work for the good of the whole community.

My Government wants to strengthen that tradition, just as we want to strengthen and diversify the industrial base of our State.

New facilities such as this will help the whole community achieve that objective, and I have great pleasure in commissioning this new foam conversion plant.

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